HPCL for the 3rd quarter ending 31.12.2001 compared to the previous year is due to the decline in international parity price of petroleum products, resulting in erosion in value of inventory as well as the net sales causing lower Profit Before Depreciation Interest and Tax (PBDIT), lower refinery margins due to sharp decline in product prices and provision of Deferred Tax in compliance with Accounting Standard-22. However, the situation in the current quarter has improved.

Exploration of Hydro-Carbon on KG Basin

1741. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has recommended to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to undertake Hydro-carbon Exploratory activity in, Krishna-Godavari Basin along the Andhra Pradesh coast; and

(b) if so, the production of gas from this Basin during the last one year and what was the production target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is engaged and has plans to continue the hydrocarbon exploratory activities in the on-land and offshore Petroleum Exploration License (PELs) areas under its operations including those obtained under New Exploration Licensing Policy-I in Krishna-Godavari Basin along the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The actual production of gas from the fields operated by ONGC in Krishna-Godavari Basin during the year 2000-01 was 1604 Million Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM) against the gas sales target of 1170 MMSCM. As per ONGC's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) no gas production target was fixed for 2000-01.

As far as private/joint venture operations are concerned, the production of gas from Ravva field in Krishna-Godavari Basin

during the year 2000-01, was 320.75 MMSCM against the target of 296.4 MMSCM.

Supply of clean fuel to Hyderabad

1742. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad has been declared a "Clean-City";

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has approached Government to include Hyderabad as one of the Metro cities where only clean fuels are supplied;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, by when a decision is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) (a) to (d) Presently petrol & diesel of 0.05% max. sulphur content is being supplied in the four metropolitan cities. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted by the Government on Auto Fuel Policy and the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh, it has been decided to supply petrol and diesel of 0.05% max sulphur content to Hyderabad from 1.4.2003.

Shares acquired by IOC

1743. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of acquisition of shares made by IOC since 1998; and

(b) the total amount depleted from the reserves of IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH